

## GROWTH OF TRAFFIC OF LOCAL ROAD

Report of Auditor Kuettnner Shows A. & C. to Be in Flourishing Condition During the Present Year.

Increase Is Found in All Totals Except Passengers Carried One Mile.

## TWENTY-TWO PER CENT GAIN

More Than 250,000 Passengers Were Carried and Over 300,000 Tons of Freight Hauled.

As indicating the prosperity of this city and its substantial growth, the increase in the business of the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Company is significant. Yesterday General Auditor F. D. Kuettnner made public the statistics for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1904, and also a comparative statement including the previous year's business. The increase in the general business of the company is shown to have been about 22 per cent, which is a showing that perhaps no other railroad company on the coast can equal. Despite the 22 per cent increase for the fiscal year, Mr. Kuettnner states that the business of the line is steadily increasing.

The increase noted in the statement made public yesterday is general, and in but one department has there been a falling off. This decrease is noted in the number of passengers carried one mile—that is, total mileage. This shows a falling off of 449,267, and is the logical consequence of the discontinuance of the Seaside excursion trains. However, in the number of passengers carried there was a material increase, so that the apparent decrease is not real.

The most remarkable increase noted is in the amount of miscellaneous freight handled by the A. & C. The increase is shown to be more than 260 per cent. Quite as remarkable has been the increase in the amount of building material hauled. The increase in this department has been in excess of 1450 per cent.

Timber shipments out of Astoria have been 15,051 tons in excess of shipments for the previous year, while salmon shipments have increased 3186 tons.

The statement made public yesterday by Auditor Kuettnner shows that the total number of passengers carried one mile in 1904 was 11,946,747, as compared with 12,395,945 in 1903. The decrease was 449,267, the result, as above explained, of the discontinuance of the excursion trains.

In 1904 the total number of passengers carried was 252,225, as compared with 236,298 in 1903, an increase of 15,927.

The total number of tons of miscellaneous freight hauled in 1904 was 308,023, as compared with 117,888 tons in 1903—an increase of 190,135 tons.

In 1904 the total number of tons of timber carried was 59,728, as compared with 44,667 tons in 1903—an increase of 15,061 tons.

In 1904 the total number of tons of salmon hauled was 13,460, as compared with 10,274 tons for the previous year—an increase of 3186 tons.

The total number of tons of building material hauled in 1904 was 177,132, as compared with 8967 tons during 1903. The amount of material hauled for the jetty this year is responsible for the excellent showing in this particular respect. The increase is shown to be 169,065 tons.

There has likewise been material increase in the amount of money paid in wages to employes. The total wage expenditure for 1903 was \$103,980.04, while for 1904 the total was \$136,796.32—an increase of \$32,816.28.

"The company employs more men and pays them more money than is commonly supposed," said Mr. Kuettnner. "By far the greater part of the sum expended annually in wages is

residents of this city, and a part of this amount, spent by the Historical Society, was spent in the city. It is estimated that the net result of the business of the railroad company, and that coal traffic also helped to swell the total.

## BRIDGE DAMAGED BY FLOOD.

High Water Continues to Work Havoc in New Mexico.

Albuquerque, N. M., Oct. 11.—A telephone message from Belen says the Santa Fe bridge over the Rio Puerto, 38 miles south of Albuquerque has been damaged by the flood and it is expected to go out at any moment. This stream has left its present channel and is returning to the old river bed, which is exactly where the Santa Fe track now lies. Several miles of the track has been washed out and work train men at Belen say it will require three weeks to repair the break.

The Rio Puerto and the Rio Grande converge at LaJoya, a few miles below Belen. There the Rio Puerto is running close on the one side of the station and the Rio Grande on the other. People in the village have been taken out in boats. Reports from other sections of New Mexico state that all streams are falling and that the heavy rain is over. The heaviest damage of the past week has been at Silver City and Deming, where the Mimbres river has been higher than for many years. The Rio Grande is falling and the people of the valley are beginning to return to their homes.

## FAVORS FLIRTING IN CHURCH.

Methodist Minister Favors Hymn Book Courtships.

Chicago, Oct. 11.—Flirting can be carried on in church to good advantage, according to a statement issued by the Rev. M. B. Williams, chairman of the committee on Sabbath observance on the Rock River conference of the Methodist Episcopal church.

"There is no reason why young persons should not cultivate each other's acquaintance from behind hymn books," declared Mr. Williams. "We are glad to have them come to church on any pretext. Flirting is as good an excuse as any. That is how I first became interested in the church."

Frivolity during religious service was, he said, to be expected from Americans. But that some good was accomplished even under these circumstances, he declared was indisputable.

"The expectation of seeing a young woman home" has brought many a boy to church for the first time," he said. "Amid the love-making there is a chance for the religious influence to steal in."

## NAME LEFT OFF BALLOT.

Carelessness May Lose Position for Republican Candidate.

Butte, Mont., Oct. 11.—A special to the Miner from Helena says: "While the secretary of state was preparing a copy of the official ballot, the discovery was made that the name of Albert J. Galen, republican candidate for attorney-general, had been left off the certificate filed by Chairman Mantle. As the time for filing nominations has expired, it is doubtful if Galen's name can be placed on the ballot. He will institute mandamus proceedings in the supreme court."

## DIVORCE QUESTION UP.

Episcopal Convention Will Consider Remarriage of Divorcees.

Boston, Oct. 11.—The proposed change in the canons of the Episcopal church, whereby clergymen shall be forbidden to marry a person who has been divorced, was discussed by the house of deputies at today's session of the Episcopal general convention. Consideration of the subject will be taken up from time to time until it is finally disposed of.

## BIG PROPERTY SOLD.

Port Angeles Eastern Railroad Changes Hands.

Port Angeles, Wash., Oct. 11.—All the property and franchises of the Port Angeles Eastern Railroad Company was transferred to the British American Finance Company today, the consideration being \$300,000.

The company states that it will build the road to Olympia in one year, the objective point being Portland, Ore.

## TERRIFIC ARTILLERY BATTLE IS PROGRESSING—REPULSED RUSSIANS AGAIN ADVANCE

Sharp Fighting Has Been Going on for Three Days North of Yentai, Japs Forcing Russians to Retire.

Russian War Office Does Not Regard Severe Fighting as Indicative of General Engagement, but Expects Decisive Struggle Will Follow Repulse by Kuropatkin of Smaller Japanese Force.

For three days there has been sharp fighting north of Yentai, between Liao Yang and Mukden. The Russian advance was checked and the attacking forces compelled to retire to the north side of the Schill river, but it subsequently recrossed the stream, where at last accounts a terrific artillery battle is progressing. In St. Petersburg the fighting is not considered to have assumed the magnitude of a general engagement, such as is expected to come within a few days, somewhere within the triangle indicated by the lines connecting Liao Yang, Yentai and Sykwantum. This battle, when fought, is expected to be decisive of this year's campaign.

Wounded Russians taken to Mukden show by their cheerfulness that improvement has been produced on the spirits of the troops by Kuropatkin taking the offensive.

## RUSSIANS ARE CONFIDENT.

Think Kuropatkin Will Force Japanese to Fall Back.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 11.—Severe fighting north of Yentai, resulting in a temporary check of Kuropatkin's guard, is not regarded at the war office as indicating a general engagement. The latest official dispatches show that the whole army is not yet in line of battle.

Kuropatkin's present superiority in numbers, it is held here, is bound sooner or later to compel the Japanese to fall back upon the strong positions within the triangle formed by Yentai, Liao Yang and Sykwantum. Everything points to that district as likely to be chosen for the decisive struggle for this year's campaign.

## TWO APPOINTMENTS.

Vacancies Filled in List of Russian Admirals.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 11.—The official messenger announces the appointment of Vice Admiral Bezobrazoff, commander of the Pacific fleet, to be senior admiral of the Baltic fleet; Rear Admiral Haupt, naval commander of the port of Vladivostok, to be junior admiral of the Baltic fleet.

## COMPOSITION OF FLEET.

Baltic Squadron Will Divide Off, Afterwards Being Re-united.

Paris, Oct. 11.—A St. Petersburg cor-

respondent learns of the final composition of the fleet which is to sail which is as follows: Seven battleships, eight cruisers, nine destroyers and ten big transports.

The fleet will divide off the Spanish coast, one squadron going by way of Suez, the other around Cape Horn, the two rejoining in the Pacific ocean.

## LONDON PAPERS PUZZLED.

Dispatch From Shanghai Says Nodzu Will Succeed Oyama.

London, Oct. 11.—The English papers this morning are still discussing what they regard as Kuropatkin's inexplicable change in the plan of campaign, and with increasing conviction that it is due to pressure from St. Petersburg. The situation will be still more complicated if the statement sent from Shanghai today turns out incorrect. The statement says it is believed that Oyama and staff will return or be recalled to Japan and Nodzu will take command.

"It is well known among the better classes of Japan," the correspondent adds, "that it was Nodzu who saved the situation at the battle of Liao Yang. Oyama had actually ordered the retreat when Nodzu vigorously protested. To Nodzu, therefore, is due great credit for averting a disastrous retreat which was warded off by almost sacrificing the entire twentieth regiment of the second division."

## NO POLICY FORMULATED YET.

New Russian Minister of Interior Says Plans Are Incomplete.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 11.—Prince Sytolpolt-Mirsky, the minister of the interior, reiterates, according to the report of an interview with him published in the Russ, his statement to the Associated Press that it is too early as yet to attempt to formulate the policy of the minister of the interior and repeats that much is to be expected from the intelligent use of the Zemotives. The minister adds that he hopes ultimately to decentralize the method of dealing with these communities so as to give each of them the benefit of their knowledge of their local conditions, as they are naturally more competent to manage their own affairs to their own advantage than is the St. Petersburg government, which often has no knowledge of the conditions that exist.

## THE COY GEISHA GIRLS.

Resist An Officer But Will Be Deported.

St. Louis, Oct. 11.—Seventeen Japanese geisha girls locked themselves in their rooms at their boarding house when United States Deputy marshals attempted to remove them in order that they might be deported to their native land at the request of Commissioner-General Tejima. After an unsuccessful attempt to remove the girls, the United States marshal ordered the house kept under the guard of his deputies.

Commissioner Beppu stated that it would be to the interest of the government to have the girls deported and he declared that they would go back if not interfered with.

## BRING CASE TO COLORADO.

Bankrupt General Metals Company Will Reorganize.

Colorado Springs, Col., Oct. 11.—Judge J. H. Lunt, representing local creditors of the General Metals Company has left for New York to argue before the United States court there a motion to transfer the action in bankruptcy against the company to

largest creditors. General Manager Grant of the Telluride mill, belonging to the company, has received a message from President Finney stating that a movement is on foot to reorganize the company and pay off all debts except those of stockholders and to resume operations at the Colorado City plant. A meeting of the company with this purpose in view will be held in New York on Wednesday.

## ILLITERATE BUT SHREWD.

Death of Aged Man Who Could Trade But Not Read.

Pittsfield, Mass., Oct. 11.—Grover Huribut, one of the most remarkable characters in the Berkshires, is dead at his home here. Huribut was 84 years old. He could neither read nor write, but amassed a fortune estimated at \$100,000 through shrewd trading. His holdings in the Berkshires comprised about 4000 acres, in amount being second only to the October Mount estate of the late William C. Whitney.

## TRAIN CREW HELD GUILTY.

Coroner's Jury Finds Them Responsible for the Great Disaster.

Warrensburg, Mo., Oct. 11.—The crew of the extra freight train which collided with the Missouri Pacific world's fair train yesterday, resulting in the death of 29 persons, was held responsible for the disaster by a coroner's jury which returned a verdict tonight. The verdict charges the crew with disobeying orders and being asleep on the post of duty. No recommendation is made as to the prosecution of the train crew.

## PEOPLE'S PARTY ORGANIZED.

Four Democratic Congressional Nominees Endorsed.

New York, Oct. 11.—Representatives of the people's party in New York met tonight and elected a state committee and perfected an organization. Four democrats, nominees for congress, Wm. R. Hearst, Wm. Sulzer, Charles A. Towne and Robert Baker, were endorsed.

In the seventeenth district H. M. McDonald was nominated as the populist candidate.

## COUNTERFEITER CAPTURED.

Secret Service Agent Finds Man in Act of Making Coins.

Seattle, Oct. 11.—United Secret Service Agent Bell today descended upon a counterfeiter's cabin in the woods west of Tacoma and captured H. N. Stone, virtually in the act of manufacturing spurious United States coins. One of the most elaborate outfits ever captured in the northwest was seized.

## VEToes POOL ROOM ORDINANCE.

Mayor Williams, of Portland, Would Stop Gambling.

Portland, Oct. 11.—Mayor Williams has vetoed the ordinance recently passed by the city council licensing pool rooms. Unless the veto is overridden by the city council the rooms will not be allowed to re-open.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Manager Selig Announces Engagement of Orral Humphrey at Fisher's.

Monday, October 17 will witness at Fisher's opera house the initial bow of Mr. Orral Humphrey to an Astoria audience. Although a stranger to Astoria, Mr. Humphrey is one of the best known stars of the Pacific northwest, this being his third season on the road at the head of his own company.

The opening bill, "Buried at Sea," is from the pen of Mr. Theodore Kramer, author of "Fatal Wedding," etc., and is rated as one of the most thrilling melodramas of the present time. Mr. Mr. Humphrey and his present company are making a feature of this production and the mechanical and scenic effects are absolutely correct and exact reproductions of the great New York production which enjoyed a run of 150 nights. Manager Selig has made arrangements for this production at popular prices. Seat sale opens Saturday morning at Griffin's book store.

Col. James P. Averhill Dead.

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 11.—Col. James P. Averhill, national junior vice-commander of the G. A. R., died suddenly this morning.

## MANY ARE POISONED BY WHISKY

Twenty-five Patrons of a New York Saloon Die Under Suspicious Circumstances.

Saloonkeeper Is Arrested on Charge of Being Responsible for Their Death.

## WHISKEY TEN CENTS A PINT

Examination of Dead Man's Stomach Indicates Presence of Wood Alcohol in Liquor Sold to Customers.

New York, Oct. 11.—Acting under instructions from the coroner, the police have taken into custody Rudolph Fritsche, who keeps a little saloon at 723 Tenth avenue. Fritsche is charged only with being a suspicious person, but the police say that in his saloon, it is suspected, whiskey was sold which contained poison and that whiskey is responsible for the many deaths that have occurred in the neighborhood recently.

Fritsche only recently bought the place, which is of the variety generally described as a barrel house. Whiskey is sold there in large quantities at a low price. The leading brands was drawn from barrels upon the application of a customer. People in the neighborhood carried their flasks to the saloon and had them filled. The whiskey was sold for ten cents a pint.

Investigation of the numerous deaths in the neighborhood during the past two weeks showed that nearly all those who had died suddenly were customers of the "barrel house." Fritsche, after being taken to the station house was quickly admitted to bail. He returned to the saloon, but the police followed, closely questioned the proprietor and closed the doors.

Twenty-five persons living in the neighborhood, all of them of middle age, have died within the past two weeks. The symptoms were in the main identical. They were characterized by the attendant physicians in all cases as those of alcoholism. In the past 24 hours one death, that of Robert Smith, has been reported, while the following await burial: Michael McAuliffe, aged 43, died Saturday.

Charles McLeavey, aged 30, died Sunday.

William Drain, aged 30, died Friday.

Adolphe Lehman, died Sunday.

Nora McGinness, died Sunday. A report submitted to Police Captain Hussey by the department of health, after the examination of Lehman's stomach, alleges that wood alcohol was found in the stomach and it is further alleged that a bottle of whiskey purchased by a detective also contained a large percentage of wood alcohol.

Determined that no mistake should be made, Coroner Scholler at once ordered that the funerals of McAuliffe and McLeavey be postponed and their stomachs analyzed. Samples also were taken from seven barrels of whiskey in Fritsche's saloon and the police took entire charge of the place. Captain Hussey, in a statement regarding the affair, said:

"In each case of death I learned that friends of the persons who died suspected that the liquor bought at this saloon had something to do with their illness.

"In every instance I found that the persons who died had become ill soon after drinking whiskey, either at the bar or from flasks which were sold to them there.

"Fritsche declares that he is not responsible for any illness caused by his whiskey, as he buys it from several wholesale dealers and knows nothing but what they tell him regarding its purity."

Coroner Scholler said he had worked night and day since Sunday to run